

City of Aniak
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
Teleconference
Thursday, August 17, 2023, at 6:00 PM

MEETING MINUTES

Virtual Meeting Information:

*To Participate please call 1-800-315-6338
Conference Code- 54481#*

- I. Call to Order** Meeting called to order by Mayor DB at 612pm
- II. Roll Call** AMorgan-P, ALeary-Absent, CErik-P, DBonanno-P, CMorgan-P
Staff Present: MSimeon, LKameroff, LKiana-telephone, CLang-absent, SLang-absent
CM-Mentioned she wanted to add an executive session with staff, office staff. DB- Concerning what, CE-add executive session to the meeting is what she's asking for, CM- I thought I told you about it yesterday, DB does the City Council approve that, MS-we have the City Manager Performance Evaluation LKiana-Mayor? For my evaluation can we postpone that until next month, so we do not have to do it over the phone DB-we could do that, we had it on our agenda for last month, we wanted to take things step at a time, what's the main reason for that? LK- I'm not there, this should be done in person DB- I think we should leave that to the council. CM- votes to meet next month for Leon's evaluation, on next month's agenda, AM- agrees, so does CE. AM makes a motion to postpone Leon Kiana's evaluation to next month's meeting, CM seconded, all approved.
- III. Approval of Agenda** AM makes a Motion to approve the amended agenda and moving evaluations to next month's agenda, CE seconded, motion carries.
- IV. Public Participation** None
- V. Previous Meeting Minutes**
A. June 15, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes
AM makes a motion to approve June 15, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes, DB seconded, all approved minutes.
- VI. Reports**
A. **Mayor Report**- D. Bonanno-Electricity rate hike, Spruce bark beetle summary from article, talk session, plan for luncheon for Greg Hager.
B. **Aniak Volunteer Fire Department** - L. Kiana- 1 house fire reported. Thanks to DB for being on top of the house fire information and Missy for filling me in. DB had to call and report to the State Fire Marshall office.
C. **Public Works** - C. Lang-June: Sewer- Everything is running good, City crew has been doing the regular maintenance, no complaints. Landfill-The crew has been keeping it clean as possible with all the bad weather. We plan on spending some time on the dump, when the weather clears up, its just been too muddy. Roads- The roads are holding up pretty good. Theres been no need to chloride as of now. We have been waiting for the barge to bring the fuel tank, and bobcat to cut brush, should be here soon. July: Landfill- We have been putting gravel down to fix the driveway and pushing off the trash. Bears tear it up daily, talked to Fish & Game to get rid of them. Roads- The roads have been holding up, no problems. Sewer- The sewer has been running well; we've been doing the same routine maintenance.
LKameroff- Heating fuel/equipment fuel should be here end of August beginning of September, the 5000 gallons we ordered.12,200 is what we average a year. We only ordered 5000, they'll be

a 7000-gallon short fall. Would like to get another order of heating or equipment fuel before the last barge comes, at least 3500 more gallons. Used 1500 gallons of gas for all departments. AML still has the bobcat, will call back next week to see when it will be shipped. There's a lot of issues with city shop, cracks in the walls, the city should be looking into some kind of funding to relocate our city shop so it will be able to house our water truck and whatever else they need to work on throughout the year. Something we should look into because the shop is deteriorating. Plan on getting another 3500 gallons of equipment or heating fuel if needed, we will still use Crowley to refill the tanks once the guys initially fill them. Charlie did say the fuel tank will be half full, we may have to use Crowley's quote so they can deliver once it's by the shop.

- D. **Library** - S. Lang- Library is still the same, not much changed. Some days we have a full sheet of kids that stop by. Now that school is out, and kids are bored they start stopping by more. We are currently working with the grant and need to get our pictures scanned into the system. Not able to connect our scanner at the library to do it and need to stop in the city office to get done asap. Also, I will work on donation letters to the company's here in Aniak to get snacks etc. For movie night/story night. I will be in Napaimute July 31-August 11th. Working with Audrey Lang as a student advisor. I filled out a leave request and will turn in Monday July 10th. Due to our decreased hours I just want to put it out there that I did apply at the clinic and Kuik store for a full time job. I will keep you updated on what happens.

LKameroff- Archiving grant was initially started four years ago is coming to an end, not much movement on that grant because of covid, change of staff, weren't able to deliver much on that grant. Able to submit public library assistant grant for FY24 it was due April 1st, but I called PLA grant specialist they had Samantha and I submit the application, so now we're waiting to see if it was approved. Also, working on close out reports, and e-rate for the library internet, Samantha and I are completing different portions of the reports. Working on financials that are due in November and will be working with Samantha on that portion of the grant. See attachment for full report.

- E. **City Clerk**- M. Simeon-July/August Monthly Report-The month of June/July went by smoothly. Still receiving Water Assistant Applications and sending them to Public Assistance on Friday's. I've been keeping myself busy in the office with scanning Resolutions and Ordinances from the previous years. I have court on September 22, 2023. I must be in-person at court in Anchorage. I would like to request from the Council and Staff if I can fill out a leave request for 2 and a half months, if possible, I could return to work before and/or after Christmas. I am required to serve 80 days. Other than that, everything has been going great, I love our new hours, even though they were cut. Enjoy the rest of the summer and Moose Hunting Season.

- F. **Bookkeeper/Financial Statement** - L. Kameroff- Verbal: Two financial statements, one is the end of 2023, and current FY 24. First financial statement we projected 57,000 less income than we had. Still under budget for FY23. This year FY 24 budgets landfill shortfall income due to the construction company demolishing and using their own equipment for the Voc-Ed building. (See attached for more information).

AM makes a Motion to approve June & July Financial Statements, seconded by CM, all approved.

- G. **City Manager** - L. Kiana-I had a meeting with Anita Erickson at the Village Safe Water office in Anchorage on June 23rd, this meeting was to evaluate the feasibility study in relocating the Sewer Lagoons from the Airport property to the City owned property. Lease agreement will expire in 2027. We have just received an award for a Capital Improvement Project planning grant of \$88,000.00 for a feasibility study through VSW to provide Fire Hydrants in the community of Aniak. This grant is in partnership between VSW and USDA Rural Development. I have not heard from YK yet on negotiating the Sub-Regional Health Clinic Lease. This lease is up for renewal on March 1, 2027.

LK- August Report I had planned on Harmony Curtis from FEMA to come to Aniak on Thursday morning to be with us for the meeting, she ended up being in Juneau for the flooding there, she will be meeting with me in the next week or following week in Anchorage to go over some issues, willing to come out September 21st meeting, to be on-

site, so that's in the works. Getting started early sending an invite to Lyman Hoffman and Bryce Egdmund to come to Aniak for the community meeting, need to have time with those two, this coming session going to be submitting a proposal for a grant improvement project, because of our circumstances such as our city shop should probably move to City property and New City build to house all the equipment.

VII. Old Business

A. Lease/Rental Agreements

1) **Rental Office-** renew/revisit agreement-Missy spoke with Dan. Napaimute will be moving by the end of August or beginning of September. We need to renew/revisit the agreement in the office, look at the agreement and make changes. Paying 1400.00 for rent. All the appliances the city paid for and repaired were mainly for the VPSO. We didn't budget anything this fiscal year for renting out the office. There's some of the floor rotting and more, the maintenance guys will need to do a walk around, a lot of work needs to be done. (2br, 1 bath) The public works guys won't do carpentry, we will have to find a contractor or find someone who knows what they're doing.

2) **SOA DOT City Shop-** Aug 31,2023-Permit is up for renewal, contacted DOT about lease agreement. Apply online to extend lease agreement. Paid 6300-6400/year for that lease.

3) **YKHC Lease Agreement-**No response from anyone at YK, need to see what the holdup is. LK has had no response from them. The lease doesn't expire until 2027.

B. Grant Updates

-**CDBG Library-** The CDBG grant is opening September or October, this is going to be a 2.2 million project for the elder center and library, the only amount we can get is 850,000 unless we have other funding secured, we may not be able to submit a proposal this year. Dealing with Denali Commission and USDA, also Rasmussen foundation for any ideas and what type of funding they can assist with since they have a new President for Rasmussen foundation. The CDBG grant I was going to submit, I'm doing a final proof reading, pretty much ready for submittal. Unless we have other funding sources 850,000 is not going to be enough. Got to meet with architect Alaska, if we can build a facility even it's just an elder center for up to 850,000, when we start a project, has to be a project that is completed and occupiable. Start with the elder center, and the following year consider the library. That's just a thought, I'd like to have thoughts from you folks if that's a viable alternative or not. CM I guess if it has to be, can't get all the money to build the whole thing and if it's not finished, thinking it would be better to do the library before the elder, our situation with the library being packed with stuff, do the library and then elder, LKiana- we have current city office, so you want to build the library next to City office and elder on site, AM- yes I believe so, LKiana- will talk with Andy when he gets back from his vacation, will be meeting with Andy in Anchorage next week. The grant proposal remains the same, I will change the scope of work for the library section this time around.

-**Ballfield-** Grant expired May 2023 SKW still has equipment on property, grant expired to get ball field surveyed. Extend grant or re-apply for grant, next year may be better to do so.

-**Sewer Lagoon-** LKiana working with Village Safe water, need final details to move the two lagoons southwest of where they are onto City property. Haven't heard back when the engineers will be in Aniak and find out what the cost will be to move the lagoons.

-**Fire Dept Training-**Ends 09-13-23 Amend scope of work. TKC training list of training medical supplies.

AM makes a Motion to approve of supplies for medical training for TKC, CM seconded, all approved.

-Library (IMLS and PLA

Grants)-Not much movement on IMLS Archiving grant. Submitted public library assistance grant application and will begin on financial and final reports.

VIII. New Business

A. **AK Public Entity Insurance FY24 Coverage Approval** AM makes a motion to approve the AK Public Entity Insurance for FY24, CM second, all approve.

B. **Best Practices Score/Training-** Our best practices scores were at 100% again, all categories of scoring is still at 100%, Have been for 6-7 years, before 2014 when I started working, we were at 35-45% The reason why they do that so we can apply for certain grants, and make sure all reports are turned in a timely manner.

1) **Wastewater operator Certificate Training-** LK-I've been talking to Charlie and Stephen about this, if the City is required to have Wastewater Certificates, they would like to have a raise. It is very important they go to this training the next one is not until spring sometime. The training is \$750.00 per person including per diem, hotel, and airline. AM- they would be driving Anchorage-Fairbanks? LKameroff, they have a vehicle so they would use the airfare for gas, LKiana- there is a mileage rate when you use your private owned vehicle, LKameroff -It's harder to keep track of mileage, LKiana- transportation is point A to B, whatever their run around in Fairbanks is not counted, so whatever the mileage is from Anchorage to Fairbanks, that is what we will pay. LKameroff- It's easier so you don't have to keep track of the mileage. AM-Yeah, I believe so, do we have to make a motion to approve the training? LKameroff- I don't know if we do or not, DB- what does it look like since they're asking for a raise? LKiana- The raises is out of the question because we don't have the budget raise for any one of us, if it's not in the budget, no one gets a pay raise. DB- Present to them training is all paid for, keeps them current and qualified in what they're doing LKiana- when the time comes next year if the funds are there, yeah, they will get the pay raise, with our situation and with the fees we're charging for water and sewer, our sales tax is only 2%, we don't have anything that's generating any revenue to justify getting any pay raises. AM- I think we need to go to 5%, LKiana- that 5% would help. LKameroff- our previous public works director made 5.50 more than Stephen and Francis, it's been two months without a public works director. LKameroff- What I can do is have them register and plan to go to the training, at the next month September meeting, have a better handle, or incomes are short fall, have to take a closer look at our budget. LKameroff- It could still be a possibility since we don't have a full-time public works director. Will have a better idea next month. What kind of raise are we looking at? \$2.75 would split between both of them from what the public works director. LKiana- We can pencil that out to see if it will work in our budget. AM- Public works director we should have left over money. LKameroff-Split between them if they both pass. AM- Their work performance, I see a lot of good things they do here in Aniak, I believe \$2.00 would be good for them. LK- It would be if they attend the class and pass the course and be Certified.

2) **AK Muni. Tax Conference-**September 28 & 29. \$100 Registration, 2-day workshop that will include property/ sales, excise taxes, short term rentals, for local government officials to assist with tax issues, thought it would be good for Leon and I to attend if possible. Been working with the Alaska sales tax, having another quarterly meeting on the 30th, they will be going over what taxes everyone has been collecting, what other taxes can be charged. Leon would like Lenore to register the both of them for the training.

3) **Federal Per Diem Rates-** The only time we think about this is when anyone is traveling. City employees are allowed \$80.00/day for meals/incidentals, doesn't matter your destination. It is in our ordinance. Must change our ordinance to using the Federal Per Diem rate that changes every year. Just for meals/incidentals others are getting \$45 more. Any changes we would have to have a first reading, a second public reading and approval before putting into our Ordinances. LKameroff-is okay for me to use these updated rates, AM- agrees and says we can't live off \$80/day. Will have an ordinance Introduction at the next meeting.

IX. Executive Session

A. City Manager Performance Evaluation and Position Openings
Motion to move to next months agenda included in Approval of Agenda

X. Time and Place of Next Meeting- CM makes a motion to request to change meeting from September 21st to September 14th, AM seconded, all approved. An ordinance needs to be done to change the Regular Council Meetings to 6pm from 7pm

September 14, 2023 @6PM

XI. Council Comments- CM-Excuse me you're not honoring my request for executive session, if you're not all for it I decline and take my request back, I don't want to hear anything else more of what's going on in this office, I'm not the only one majority of the council was on this, so I take it off I rest my case. AM- As a council member with my comments I think we're doing okay, listening to the comments Missy and Morgan are talking about and you(Clara), I kind of know what's going on, pretty much what's going on, someone came up and ask how we know if our employees are working without Leon here, her response is when she passes our vehicles are here and she knows were working. MSimeon-I get dropped off so my car is never here. AM- We're going to have a luncheon for Greg. CM-I know these girls are doing good work from Missy's reports and everything in order, it's just that I'm not picking on you girls, too much hearing of attitude we all get up on the wrong side of the bed in the morning, and it should stay by our bed and not come to work with us and treat all staff equally. LKameroff-How come you're only looking at me, CM- well you're the boss of those people I'm talking about, LKameroff-I don't know who has a problem with who, we all work together. CM- That's what I wanted to have an executive session for to sit and discuss, okay I'm done. DB- in our work settings there are things might not be going always as smoothly as we like, we all got to hang in there, realize that all of us too, we're not getting rich here, we all deserve a pat on the back.

XII. Adjourn- CM makes motion to adjourn, AM seconded, meeting adjourned at 803pm

Attested:

Mayor David W. Bonanno *Signed: Date*

City Clerk Morgan Simeon *Signed: Date*